

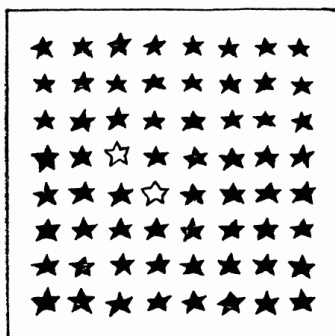
## ON AN ERROR IN THE STAR PUZZLE BY HENRY E. DUDENEY

ALEX RAVSKY

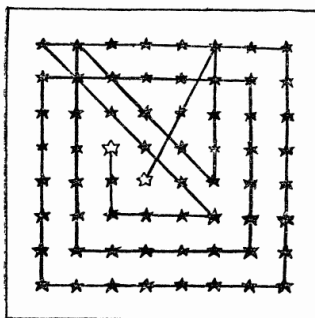
ABSTRACT. We found a solution of the star puzzle (a path on a chessboard from c5 to d4 in 14 straight strokes) in 14 queen moves, which has been claimed by the author as impossible.

Recently I have spent many nice hours with the old puzzle book [Dud1] by Henry E. Dudeney.

The task of the star puzzle, ((X36 = AM329) according to the list [Knu] by Donald E. Knuth) published a century ago in The Strand Magazine [Dud2], is to construct a path, consisting of 14 straight strokes, on the following field of stars from one light star to the other such that all the stars lay on the path.



Author have claimed that it is impossible to do in 14 queen moves and have proposed the following solution:

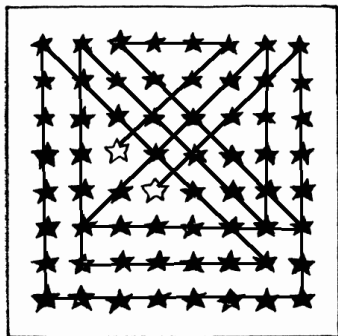


Surprisingly, I have found the following solution in 14 queen moves, searching it by hand, as in the good old days:

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*Key words and phrases.* queen path, Henry Dudeney.



c5-f8-c8-h3-b3-g8-g3-b8-b2-g2-a8-a1-h1-h8-d4

### REFERENCES

- [Dud1] Henry E. Dudeney, *The Canterbury Puzzles and Other Curious Problems*, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1958 (in Russian, M.: Mir, 1986).
- [Dud2] Henry E. Dudeney, *The star puzzle*, *The Strand Magazine*, **41** (1911), 362.
- [Knu] Donald E. Knuth, *Dudeney's puzzles and perplexities in The Strand Magazine*, 2001.  
<http://www-cs-faculty.stanford.edu/~uno/dudeney-strand.txt>  
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